

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11413 121248Z
ACTION NEA-10

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R 121025Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO USDA WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 11413

FROM AGATT FOR USDA PASS FAS GRAIN AND FEED DIV., AND PARKER,
ERS

DACCA FOR FEJFAR

BOMBAY FOR CLENDENEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, IN
SUBJECT: SOUTHWEST MONSOON

REF: NEW DELHI 11057

1. MONSOON ACTIVITY IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY DURING THE WEEK ENDING
AUGUST 10 OVER THE MODEST PERFORMANCE OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK. THE
NUMBER OF WEATHER ZONES RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL
INCREASED TO 20 FROM 13, OUT OF A TOTAL OF 35.

2. AREAS RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL DURING THE
WEEK UNDER REVIEW WERE: BAY ISLANDS, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, SOUTHERN
PARTS OF WEST BENGAL AND BIHAR, ORISSA, HARYANA, HIMACHAL
PRADESH, JAMMU AND KASHMIR, RAJASTHAN, MADHYA PRADESH, GUJARAT
NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST MAHARASHTRA, COASTAL ANDHRA PRADESH,
TAMIL NADU, AND NORTH AND SOUTH INTERIOR KARNATAKA. RAINFALL OVER
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REST OF THE COUNTRY WAS DEFICIENT TO SCANTY VARYING FROM 24
PERCENT IN NAGALAND, MANIPUR, MIZORAM, AND TRIPURA TO 99 PERCENT
IN LAKKSHADWEEP (BELOW NORMAL).

3. CUMULATIVE RAINFALL FROM JUNE 1 TO AUGUST 10, 1977 WAS NORMAL
OR ABOVE NORMAL IN BAY ISLANDS, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, ASSAM AND
MEGHALAYA, SOUTHERN PARTS OF WEST BENGAL, ORISSA, BIHAR, UTTAR

PRADESH, HARYANA, PUNJAB, HIMACHAL PRADESH, JAMMU AND KASHMIR, RAJASTHAN, MADHYA PRADESH, GUJARAT, MAHARASHTRA (EXCLUDING SOUTHEAST AREAS), ANDHRA PRADESH (BARRING NORTHWESTERN REGION), TAMIL NADU, KARNATAKA, KERALA, AND LAKSHADWEEP. RAINFALL OVER BALANCE OF THE COUNTRY WAS BELOW NORMAL RANGING FROM 23 PERCENT IN NORTHWEST ANDHRA PRADESH TO 30 PERCENT IN NAGALAND, MANIPUR, MIZORAM AND TRIPURA. THE ABOVE WEATHER ZONES WHICH RECEIVED NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL ACCOUNTED FOR 94 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL KHARIF CEREAL PRODUCTION (COMPARED TO 65 PERCENT IN THE COMPARABLE PERIOD OF 1976), USING AS A BASE THE DISTRIBUTION OF KHARIF PRODUCTION DURING 1970-71.

4. IN AN ASSESSMENT OF FLOOD DAMAGE GIVEN TO THE PARLIAMENT ON AUGUST 5, THE UNION MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION MR. BARNALA REPORTED THAT BASED ON PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR THE FIRST -HALF OF THE SEASON OVER 1,750,000 HECTARES OF LAND HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY FLOODS, OF WHICH 773,000 HECTARES WAS CROPPED AREA. WIDESPREAD POCKETS IN HARYANA, RAJASHTNAN WEST BENGAL, GUJARAT, AND ORISSA CONTINUE TO EXPERICNE FLOOD CONDITIONS NEVERTHELESS THE FLOODED LANDS ARE A MINISCULE PORTION OF THE TOTAL AREA UNDER CROP.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, INCESSANT RAINS SINCE THE ONSET OF THE SW MONSOON HAVE TAKEN A HIGHER THAN NORMAL TOLL OF FOODGRAINS STORED IN THE OPEN UNDER COVER AND PLINTH (CAP). AERATION OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY PRECLUDED BY THE INTERMINABLE

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NATURE OF THE RAINS AND HUMIDITY HAS REPORTEDLY HOOSTED THE MOISTURE CONTENT OF SOME STORED GRAINS TO AS HIGH AS 14 PERCENT.

6. THE OVERALL FAVORABLE PERFORMANCE THUS FAR IN THE IMPORTANT RICE PRODUCING STATES HAS ENHANCED THE KHARIF CROP PROSPECTS. THE AGATTACHE OFFICE CURRENTLY ESTIMATES THAT 1977-78 RICE PRODUCTION WILL RANGE BETWEEN 45 - 47 MILLION METRIC TONS COMPARED TO LAST YEAR'S ESTIMATE OF 43 - 44 MILLION METRIC TONS. HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENT ESTIMATES COULD TAKE ON A MORE BOUYANT CHARACTER IF RAINFALL PATTERNS DURING THE NXT 4-5 WEEKS ARE AS FAVORABLE AS HAS BEEN THE CASE TO DATE.GOHEEN

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Disposition Event:
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